

Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8751

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CONMAVPHIL SUBIC BAY

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E O 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, EFIN, EWWT, JA, RP

SUBJ: JAPANESE AID TO THE PHILIPPINES - SUBIC BAY SHIP

REPAIR FACILITY

REF: MANILA 11617

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON JAPANESE EMBOFF SHOJI TAKAHASHI AUGUST 5 TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO THE KAWASAKI SHIP REPAIR FACILITY PLANNED FOR SUBIC BAY. TAKAHASHI SAID THAT THE GEOGRAPHIC SITE SURVEY HAS BEEN FINISHED. THE DETAILED

DESIGN FOR THE PLANT IS SCHEDULED TO BE FINISHED BY MID-1977 WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE PLANT TO BEGIN ABOUT SEPTEMBER 1977. THE PLANT IS SCHEDULED TO BE FINISHED AND IN OPERATION BY MID-1980.

2. THE ESTIMATED COST OF THE PROJECT IS \$72 MILLION OF WHICH THE OVERSEAS ECONOMIC COOPERATION FUND OF JAPAN WILL FINANCE \$37 MILLION. \$15 MILLION WILL BE PICKED UP LOCALLY (BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK, ACCORDING TO GENEROSO F. TANSECO, HEAD OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY), AND THE REMAINING \$20 MILLION WILL BE CAPITAL INVESTMENT SPLIT 60-40 BETWEEN THE GOP AND THE JAPANESE.

3. TAKAHASHI SAID THAT THE MAJOR CONCERN OF THE JAPANESE

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WAS THAT VESSELS COMING INTO THE FACILITY, WHICH IS TO

BE LOCATED SOME 5-6 KILOMETERS TOWARD THE HEAD OF THE BAY PAST SUBIC NAVAL BASE, WOULD BE DENIED PASSAGE THROUGH THE STRAITS BY THE USG IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY. THE GOP HAS REASSURED KAWASAKI THAT IT (THE GOP) HAS FULL CONTROL OF THE STRAITS.

4. THE PLANT IS BEING CUSTOM DESIGNED TO HANDLE KAWASAKI BUILT VESSELS. KAWASAKI IS GOING TO HAVE ALL ITS REPAIR/ CLEANING DONE AT THIS YARD. THE FORECAST IS FOR ONE VESSEL A WEEK TO BE UTILIZING THE YARD. THE YARD WILL HAVE CAPABILITY OF HANDLING UP TO 300,000 DWT VESSELS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY 1980 THE FACILITY WILL EMPLOY 20 JAPANESE AND 680 FILIPINOS AND BY 1990 20 JAPANESE AND 1400 FILIPINOS.

5. MR. TAKAHASHI, IN A PERSONAL ASIDE TO EMBOFF STATED THAT PROBABLY IT WAS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC TO THINK THAT THEY COULD CONSISTENTLY HAVE ONE VESSEL A WEEK UTILIZING THE YARD. HE SPOKE VERY FREELY AND SAID HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE DESIRED.
SULLIVAN

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